

Bicycle Project Highlights: Off-Road

Swain County Nantahala River Rail Trail TIP Project No. E-2929

Located beside one of the best-known whitewater rivers east of the Mississippi, the Nantahala River Rail Trail was constructed by the US Forest Service in partnership with the Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation (DBPT) in 1997. The Forest Service prepared the environmental document, construction drawings and administered the construction contract. DBPT engineers coordinated construction plans review and obtained approval of federal funds to build the project.

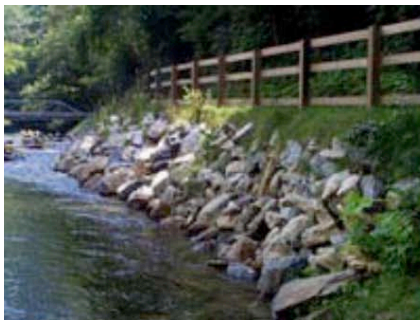
The Nantahala River Rail Trail is constructed on a discontinued railway that was used to haul lumber many decades ago. The former rail corridor had become inaccessible due to heavy vegetative undergrowth and erosion. The Trail now allows public access along one of the most scenic sections of the river for a distance of approximately 5000 feet.



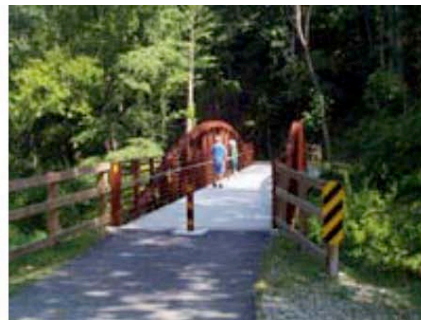
Pre-fabricated steel bridge is installed over



The completed bridge spans 125'
over the Nantahala River scenic
whitewater river



Timber guard rail and natural fieldstone



Concrete bridge deck serves to reduce
embankment add context sensitive
design maintenance costs elements